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The U.S. Fire Administration maintains the **Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)**.

For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

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Pre-Planning Important for Farm Emergencies

Farms are full of complex machinery and equipment that can be very deadly, and anyone without a farming background would likely be out of their realm around such equipment. Emergency responders living in heavily agricultural states know how brutal farm accidents can be. [Pre-planning for farm-related emergencies](#) will save time, save lives and property, and will protect the emergency personnel.

Firefighters and EMS personnel responding to a farm emergency shouldn't need to take vital time out of the call to learn about the workings of the equipment, bins, silos, or product involved. This can turn a short rescue into an hours-long ordeal and shorten the likelihood of success.

The [Penn State Agricultural Extension's Farm Emergencies program](#) targets these kinds of emergencies. Training for first responders includes modules on farm confined space, managing farm chemicals, animal emergencies, and grain elevator and feed mill fires. The site lists several helpful [brochures and flyers](#), case studies of the [training's impact](#), and [emergency first aid care for farmers](#) modules. The program will travel outside Pennsylvania; please contact the program's staff for detailed criteria.

Several other state agricultural extension offices have similar classes or programs available, be sure to check with your local office. In addition, see the [United States Department of Agriculture](#), the [University of Missouri Extension](#), the [National Aq Safety Database](#), and this article in the [North Carolina Medical Journal](#) (PDF, 62.8 Kb) for more information.

(Source: [Penn State Agricultural Extension](#))

Engaging Faith Communities as Partners

An incredible source of support, stability, and comfort during a crisis or disaster is faith-based communities and organizations, who have traditionally responded to humanitarian needs as part of their practice. Starting to building a strong relationship with faith communities requires some understanding of the different faiths represented in your community and involves building trust, teamwork, and respect on both sides. Now, during [National Preparedness Month](#), is a good time to start.

The [National Disaster Interfaiths Network](#) (NDIN) believes it is necessary for emergency managers to know the cultural and religious practices of their communities and include them in disaster and recovery plans. "To do otherwise is to compromise the safety or sustainable recovery of their communities."

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

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For information specifically affecting the private sector critical infrastructure contact the **National Infrastructure Coordinating Center** by phone at 202-282-9201, or by email at nicc@dhs.gov.

Two NDIN guides help agencies toward this goal. The [Field Guide](#) promotes engagement and partnerships and helps provide guidance for approaching faith-based organizations. The [Field Guide: Primer](#) is a quick reference on 24 of the largest religious communities in the United States, listing the basic tenets of the religion as well as considerations that may be important during disasters response and relief.

NDIN is a national network of disaster interfaith organizations representing many different faiths and denominations who work to reduce disaster-caused human suffering. It offers training, consulting and technical IT assistance, and a speaker's bureau to both governmental and faith-based organizations. It also offers an online library and a searchable directory of national faith-based organizations.

(Source: [NDIN](#))

Earthquakes? What Earthquakes?

The United States has not seen a serious, destructive earthquake in some time. Our last 7.0 or higher magnitude earthquake was in 2007 in the Aleutian Islands chain of Alaska – not a very populated area. However, earthquakes of that magnitude are not uncommon around the world and they don't need to be very powerful to be damaging and deadly. In 2010, 20 earthquakes caused fatalities (320,120 deaths) and only three were 7.0 magnitude or higher.

We have earthquakes in the United States every day and it's important to address and anticipate the needs of the community. There are several online resources emergency managers can take advantage of to improve their plans, exercises, and outreach regarding earthquakes and their aftermath.

The [United States Geological Survey](#) (USGS) maintains watch on earthquake activity around the world, including a [real-time map](#). They have an extensive map collection, links to international monitoring stations, and hazard analysis tools, and historical records. The USGS also promotes the [Great ShakeOut Drills](#) helping people learn and practice how to be safe during big earthquakes.

The [Central United States Earthquake Consortium](#) (CUSEC) works with the states around the new Madrid and Wabash Valley seismic zones. CUSEC offers earthquake safety tips, a housing recovery strategy, workshops, a newsletter, and more.

See the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), the [Red Cross](#), and [Ready.gov](#) for more outreach and training resources. Many universities in earthquake-prone areas have seismological observatories as well; check with your local schools.

(Source: [CUSEC](#))

Basic Vehicle Extrication Training

The Firefighters Support Foundation (FSF) recently released its newest training program "[Basic Vehicle Extrication](#)." The program discusses scene approach and control, passive and active safety systems, safety system mitigation, and more.

The free training is made up of a PowerPoint presentation and a 30-minute video presentation which includes lecture and demonstration. The training is ideal for individual training as well as in-house or academy training. To see the other training programs available, visit the [FSF website](#).

(Source: [FSF](#))